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**METHODS OF INHIBITING BINDING OF
 β -SHEET FIBRIL TO RAGE AND CONSEQUENCES THEREOF**

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This application is a continuation-in-part and claims priority of U.S. Serial No. 09/374,213, filed August 13, 1999, the contents of which are incorporated by reference.

10 The invention disclosed herein was made with Government support under grant numbers AG00690, AG14103, AG12891, NS31220, HL56881, HL69091 from the USPHS, JDFI and the Surgical Research Fund. Accordingly, the government has certain rights in this invention.

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Throughout this application, various publications are referenced to within parentheses. Disclosures of these publications in their entireties are hereby incorporated by reference into this application to more fully describe the
20 state of the art to which this invention pertains. Full bibliographic citations for these references may be found at the end of this application, preceding the claims.

Background of the Invention

25 Amyloid beta-peptide ($A\beta$) engagement of cell surface receptors would be expected to have diverse consequences for cell function. Constitutive production of low levels of $A\beta$, principally $A\beta(1-40)$, throughout life suggests an homeostatic role for the peptide. This is consistent with
30 neurologic abnormalities observed in mice deletionally mutant for β -amyloid precursor protein (β APP) (Zheng et al., 1995). However, deposition of $A\beta$ fibrils sets the stage for